

BANDERA

Department of State

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Classification

Date Sent OCT 18, 1961
Rec'd

FROM: U.S. Mission BERLIN

TO: Embassy WASH A-165
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COPY NO. 104 SERIES B

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Paris for Embassy, USIA, Stossel and Meadre

East Berlin Berliner Zeitung of October 18, in article headed "Gehlen
Killed for Horn," carried long report of press conference held in East
Berlin previous day at which one Stefan Lippold told assembled journalists
that he had taken part in the murder in Munich a year ago of Ukrainian
emigre leader Stefan Bandera.

Press conference report described Lippold as Ukrainian who had been
recruited by General Gehlen near the end of the war and who had later
been brought back into espionage work when Gehlen revived his espionage
organization. His first assignment for Gehlen had been to organize
poisoning of Bandera, he claimed. Bandera's liquidation was supposedly
desired by Gehlen organization because, as Lippold put it, Bandera had
been working for British intelligence and had refused to transfer his
network to Gehlen organization. Lippold asserted that he had been unable
to carry out murder attempt, however, and that as consequence another
agent named Dmitri Nekly, who had himself subsequently been murdered by
Gehlen organization, had been given task. Lippold supposedly fled to
Hawaii after Bandera's death and only then to West Germany after he
began to fear that he, as an accomplice in Bandera's murder, would also
be liquidated as Bandera and Nekly had been.

Neues Deutschland report of press conference quoted Kurt Bleich,
Chief of East German Council of Ministers Press Office, as having declared
that: "These disclosures show clearly that ruling circles in Bonn
military state do not shrink from even political and physical murder in
carrying out their criminal war goals of sharpening situation further
instead of contributing to negotiations for a German peace treaty."

Comment: Starting of press conference suggests that East German
regime itself may have organized assassination of Bandera, since from very
beginning of case East press has consistently reported that Bandera had
been murdered by West Germans in order to remove inconvenient witness to
war-time crimes of ex-Wehr Minister Oberlaender. West Germans evidently

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2004 2006

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

A-165 DEPARTMENT

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plan to keep case alive, since Neues Deutschland account of press conference contained statement by a Lt. Col. Keil of Ministry of State Security that "there would shortly be further disclosures regarding connections between Gehlen espionage service and other espionage organizations in West Berlin."

Since West German judicial investigation of Bandera's murder has not been completed, it is also possible that East German press conference may have been staged in order to put on record a documented East German version of circumstances of Bandera's murder. In this fashion East Germany might hope to minimize impact of possible later disclosures in West substantiating Western press speculation about direct East German/Soviet responsibility for Bandera's murder.

LICENSING

AMH: TADonovan, CIO/AF, ECU

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